IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) An electrode assembly, comprising ~~assembly including~~:

an electrically conductive, elongate pin;

an elongate ~~reinforcing~~ mandrel mounted on at least a portion of the ~~said~~ pin; and

an electrode strip in electrical communication with the pin and an electrode strip electrically insulated from the pin, the electrode strips being wound around the pin ~~a spiral roll comprising first and second opposite polarity electrode strips and at least one separator strip separating said electrode strips mounted on said pin, wherein one of said electrode strips is electrically coupled to said pin~~.

30. (currently amended) The electrode assembly of ~~claim 29~~ claim 29, wherein the ~~said~~ mandrel ~~is C-shaped and defines~~ includes a longitudinal slot; and wherein

~~an inner end of said first electrode strip~~ the electrode strip in electrical communication with the pin extends through the ~~said~~ mandrel slot ~~is electrically connected to said pin~~.

31. (currently amended) The electrode assembly of ~~claim 29~~ claim 29, wherein a portion of the ~~said~~ pin ~~comprises a portion extending~~ extends beyond the ~~said~~ spiral roll to form a battery terminal.

32. (currently amended) The electrode assembly of ~~claim 29~~ claim 29, wherein the ~~said~~ mandrel is crimped onto the ~~said~~ pin.

33. (currently amended) The electrode assembly of ~~claim 29~~ claim 29, wherein the mounted mandrel has a channel through which electrolyte can be injected.

34.-70. (canceled)

71. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein at least one separator strip separates the electrode strips.

72. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein a portion of the electrode strip in electrical communication with the pin is positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

73. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein the electrode strip in electrical communication with the pin includes active material positioned on a substrate, the substrate being positioned between the mandrel and the pin without the active material being positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

74. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein at least one weld directly connects the electrode strip that is in electrical communication with the pin to the pin.

75. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein the pin includes an alloy of PtIr alloy.

76. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, further comprising:

a first end cap mounted on the pin,

the first end cap including an electrical insulator,

the pin extending through the electrical insulator, and

the pin being hermetically sealed to the electrical insulator.

77. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein a weld attaches the mandrel to the pin.

78. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein the mandrel includes titanium or an alloy of titanium.

79. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.

80. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 79, wherein the pin is positioned in an interior of the tube.

81. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.

82. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein the mandrel is fitted around the pin such that the first electrode strip and the second electrode strip are wound around the pin and the mandrel.

83. (new) The electrode assembly of claim 29, wherein the mandrel is a reinforcing mandrel.